

Piechowski et al.

S/N: 10/064,782

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed April 23, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stol (USP 4,642,445). The Examiner next rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Flynn et al. (USP 5,846,271). Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Davis (USP 5,114,447). Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sherwood, Jr. (US 2002/0046555 A1). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Newman (USP 2,413,991) in view of Offer et al. (USP 5,981,897). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis.

Applicant appreciates the allowability of claim 7-17 and 19-27 and the indication of allowability of claim 18 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the generalized subject matter of previously presented claim 18. As amended, claim 1 calls for a gas filter incorporated into a welding system. As such, Applicant believes claim 1, and those claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Claim 18 is hereby cancelled.

New claims 28-34 are also presented herein. Claim 28 calls for, in part, a shielding gas filter assembly having a housing having an inlet constructed to connect the housing to a shielding gas source and an outlet constructed to connect the housing to a welding apparatus. The art of record fails to teach a filter assembly having a housing constructed in such a manner. As such, claims 28-34 are believed to be patentably distinct over the art of record.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-17 and 19-34.

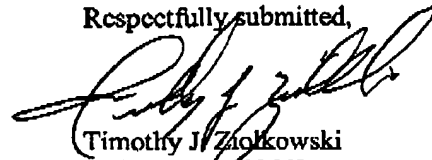
A credit card authorization in the amount of \$212.00 is enclosed for fees associated with entering the claims newly presented herein.

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Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 21, 2004
Attorney Docket No.: ITW7510.016

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